ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In an automatic focus detecting apparatus, an image which is formed on an imaging device by a photographing lens is converted into a video signal containing a high frequency component. The video signal is read out for every field period VD while changing the image forming state on the imaging device, and the video signal is separated into three groups of video signal components sampled at 3 VD period, which is the least common multiple of the flicker period (1/100 second) of the light source and the field period VD (1/60 second). The peak positions of the three groups of the high frequency components are detected, and a curve of a contrast values is determined by an interpolation calculation that is performed on the basis of each peak position so as to detect the in-focus position of the photographing lens.